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PRIVATE DUTY VERSUS RECRUITING NURSES

Dear Editor: Many and various opinions are expressed as to the shortage of nurses. Many organizations are instituting recruiting methods, some of which, no doubt, have been successful; but are the attractions great enough to supply the ever increasing demand for nurses? No; we must endeavor to strengthen our attractive powers if we hope to restore the present shortage to normalcy.

The profession has with each passing decade made wonderful inventive and scientific advances. New branches of nursing are each year becoming prominently identified. Intensively technical training is required to fill some of the various nursing posts. Do we not think sometimes of the laxity in general allowed private duty or bed-side nursing? The opinion is almost universal that any kind of a nurse can do private duty. Why? Is not private duty one of the most conspicuous branches of nursing? Many nurses are doing private duty today because they do not care to pursue some other branch considered more intricate. Is not private duty nursing associated more closely with the public than any other form of nursing? With justice to all, should not private duty nursing be strengthened by the addition of the highest type of womanhood, of nurses whose ideals are imbedded to the soul depth of our illustrious predecessors? I am wholly convinced of the fact that a recruiting campaign in this form would be more effective than any existing method. Do we economize with defective foundation materials in the structure of architecture? No; the soundest, most perfect materials obtainable are used—if imperfect materials must be utilized, they are adjusted in places which are more accessible. Such are the fundamentals which underlie private duty nursing. Superintendents of training schools and others in executive places, will you not assist in forming an alliance to make stronger this weakening branch of our profession? All nurses possess not the highly illumined soul of Florence Nightingale, but many who are now aimless could be assisted by the more highly inspired. Wonderful response could not be anticipated in a few months or years, but with diligent help many difficulties will be overcome each year, with success and happiness to the on-coming generation.

Miss.

ADA MCP. FINLAY.

CARE OF GOLD FISH

Dear Editor: Having had the JOURNAL for years, I am always interested in its columns. In this month's issue, I find an article by Margaret C. Williams on interesting the patient and on the care of gold fish. I would like to offer my rule on the care of fish, as it seems much less trouble than Miss Williams seems to think. Some four years ago I purchased five gold fish, and a box of pebbles, put them in a glass bowl half full of water from the faucet, and began to give the fish food every day and to clean out the bowl every week. During the second week, one fish floated and seemed about gone. I looked up treatment, which was to get normal salt solution, about one quart, and put in the sick one, also the well, keeping them in about ten minutes. I got the bowl ready, put them back, and read more on the care of fish. Everything pointed to overfeeding. From that time on, I fed them once a week and cleaned the bowl once in from four to six weeks, giving the salt bath, and I still have the fish with the exception of one that died while I was on my vacation.

Massachusetts

K. M. M.

FROM A SUCCESSFUL NEWS GATHERER

Dear Editor: Your inquiry regarding the gathering of news items from our state was a distinct surprise to me, as I have felt that the state was not properly represented. I am located in one little corner and find many things